

MONTANA RAIL LINK

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today an award ceremony for one of the nation's best and brightest short line railroads, was held to honor Montana Rail Link's safety record. Montana Rail Link, commonly referred to as MRL, offers essential and competitive freight service to a large number of customers along Montana's Southern rail line from Billings to Sandpoint, Idaho.

MRL was honored today by being awarded the E.H. Hariman Memorial award. This award is specifically designated to recognize railroad safety improvement. Working on the railroad is not like having a desk job. It's not a job for the timid—it's a job where hard work and plenty of sweat are part of everyday tasks.

Each year, it is tragically inevitable that railroad employees are involved in accidents which can result in serious injury or even death. With the reception of this award, it is very apparent that MRL places a significant value on the safety of their employees. As a Montanan, I am relieved to see that a Montana railroad is the recipient of this award. Montana railroads have a long and colorful history in the establishment of our state. And I have friends that work on the railroad.

Montanans are very dependent on this rail transportation. We are dependent on this competitive alternative. As many are aware, I have introduced legislation that will help to assure the nation's shippers of competitive rail access. It is my intent to not only create free-market competition in the rail industry, I would also like to improve service of the nation's Class 1 railroads.

I've heard from many Montanans about the importance of rail car availability and affordability. The nation's rail system is dominated by four large behemoths of railroads. In Montana, those railroads are the target of much criticism based on their pricing and contractual practices.

It is the short lines that help to balance out the public's perception of railroads. In Montana, MRL has been hailed as a very reliable transportation alternative. MRL has also been hailed with this award today.

You've all heard me make a reference to Montana's vast distances—from corner to corner, the distance from Alzada to Yaak, Montana is equivalent to the distance from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, Illinois. I'm sure my colleagues will agree with me, especially when you consider the variance in terrain we are faced with in our state. Pulling a train over multiple mountain passes in the dead of winter can be a daunting task.

In Montana, we value good, honest, quality service. MRL is very much an example of what is best about Montana.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL BERRIE and DR. ROBERT A. SCOTT

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Russell Berrie and Dr. Robert A. Scott, two of New Jersey's leaders in business and education, on the occasion of their third annual "Making A Difference Awards" program.

Mr. President, Russ and Robert have made tremendous philanthropic and humanitarian contributions to my state of New Jersey. In 1997, they joined together through the Russell Berrie Foundation to create the "Making A Difference Awards," which honor unsung heroes of New Jersey for acts of unusual heroism, extraordinary community service or lifetime achievement.

Much like the award recipients, Russ Berrie has devoted a lifetime to helping others. Thirty-six years ago, he founded RUSS Berrie and Company, Incorporated, which develops and distributes more than 6,000 gift products to retailers worldwide. Its diverse range of products include stuffed animals, baby gifts, picture frames, candles, figurines, and home decor gifts. Russ' company, headquartered in Oakland, NJ, grosses annual sales of \$270 million and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1984.

Recently, Fortune Magazine named Russ one of its "Forty Most Generous Americans," and Russ has been recognized by many organizations for his strong commitment to education, health care and interreligious affairs. Russ' Foundation promotes his values, passions, and ideas through investment in innovative ideas and by supporting individuals who make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Robert also has made a positive impact on the world around him. He currently is the president of Ramapo College, New Jersey's leading liberal arts school, serving over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from over 20 states and 50 nations. Thanks to Robert, the college has named its soon-to-open center for performing and visual arts after Russ and his wife, Angelica. What an honor!

Mr. President, I am pleased today to honor my good friends Russ and Robert for their work in honoring the unsung heroes of New Jersey. We are indebted to them for their service. I am happy to join them in honoring this year's three winners of the "Making A Difference Award"—Beverly Turner, of Irvington, who lives with muscular dystrophy, for devoting her time caring for children with special needs. James C. Joiner, founder of the Rescuing Inner City Kids (RISK), for dedicating his time, skill, and spirit to working with inner-city children to instill in them the desire to better themselves and the people around them. Finally, Frederick "Freddie" Hoffman, of River Edge, for dedicating the last ten years of his life to raising money for the Leukemia Foundation. I also would like to recognize the 14 finalists: Douglas A.

Berrian, Mr. and Mrs. William Clutter, Sister June Favata, Kathleen Garcia, Adam and Blair Hornstine, Sylvia Jackson, Jeff Macaulay, Jim McCloskey, Eddie Mulrow, Thomas O'Leary, Barry Lee Petty, Michael Ricciardone, Richard J. Ward, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Zufall.

Mr. President, I congratulate all of the honorees for unselfishly giving of themselves. They have proven to their family, to their friends, and to their communities that this honor is well-deserved.●

ADMIRAL BUD NANCE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Bud Nance, chief of staff of the Foreign Relations Committee, who passed away last week after many years of devoted service to the country he loved.

As a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and someone who had the privilege of knowing and working with Bud, I can honestly say I have not met a finer person. A man deeply devoted to the ideals for which this country stands, he conducted himself with honor and integrity in all that he did. And he had an uncommon humility and kindness that will be remembered by all those fortunate to have met him.

With 41 years in the Navy, service under both the Nixon and Reagan Administrations, and a direct role in SALT II talks, Bud had already achieved a lifetime of accomplishments even before he was urged by his longtime friend, Senator HELMS, to assume the role of chief of staff at the Foreign Relations Committee. As with everything else he did, Bud flourished in that position, bringing his invaluable years of experience and knowledge to the Senate. He was a sure and steady hand at the helm of the Committee, and his remarkable spirit has left an indelible mark on all of us.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena—whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood . . . a leader who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause . . ." Admiral Bud Nance was just such a man, and today our thoughts are with his wife, Mary, and Bud's entire family as they mourn the passing of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. We are also thinking of Senator HELMS at this saddest of times, as he grieves for the loss of one of his oldest and dearest friends.

Again, I want express my profound sadness on the loss of this great American, who was a patriot in life and whose legacy will never be forgotten by a grateful nation.●

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish